



Illustration by John H. Rumely,
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PSILOCARPHUS BREVISSIMUS* VAR *BREVISSIMUS **DWARF WOOLLY-HEADS**

Dwarf Woolly-heads is an annual with erect to prostrate, branched stems that are up to 5 cm tall. The alternate, lance shaped leaves are 5-25 mm long, and the foliage is densely covered with white, tangled hairs. Minute flowers are borne in globose, woolly heads that are partially hidden among the upper leaves. Each flower and seed in the head is enclosed by a long-hairy bract that is longer than the achene at ca. 3 mm long. The achene lacks a pappus and the style base is distinctly offset at the top. Mature fruit June-early August.

Wooly annual composites that look similar include *GNAPHALIUM PALUSTRE*, a native species of vernal moist habitats, and *FILAGO ARVENSIS*, an introduced upland species. Both differ from *PSILOCARPHUS BREVISSIMUS* in having pappus bristles on the achene. A hand lens or microscope are needed for positive identification.